

Monongahela Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2024
Steve Lebnick Agricultural Center
Morgantown, WV
9:30 am

Attendance:

District Supervisors: Mark Myers (chairman), Mark Teets, HR Scott, Chuck Cienawski, Andy Price, Bob Spaid (Associate), Art Mouser (Associate)

USDA-NRCS: Christopher Toothman

WVDOF: Rudy Williams

WVU Extension: Carrie See (Preston County)

WVCA: Kaitlyn Jones, Devon Kokoska, Adrienne Hoalcraft, Sigrid Teets, Bill Armstrong

WVACD: Heather Duncan (virtual)

Guest: Brandon Linton (supervisor starting July 1st)

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was led by Art Mouser

Prayer was given by Art Mouser.

May 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- **Teets moved to approve the May meeting minutes (5/2/24). Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**

May 15, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

- **Price moved to approve the May Special Meeting minutes. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**

Cooperating Agency Reports

- USDA-NRCS – DC Christopher Toothman provided a written report.
- WV-DOF – Rudy Williams discussed the success of a women’s chainsaw class at Faye Farm. DOF will have summer camps and a kids nature program. Smokey the Bear’s 80th birthday is this year.
- WVU Extension – Carrie See introduced herself as the new WVU Extension Ag Agent out of Preston County.
- WVACD – Heather Duncan provided a written report. She advised any supervisor interested in being a NACD officer to reach out.

Watershed Division Report:

- Bill Armstrong reported the job showing dates. Upper Deckers Creek’s will be June 17th at 9 am at WVU Research Farm. Upper Buffalo Creek’s will be June 18th at 9 am at the Price

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Cutter parking lot in Mannington. Bid openings for both will take place June 25th at 9 am at the MCD conference room.

- A potential contract for the Mannington Channel is still ongoing.
- The requirements for potential bidders was discussed. Armstrong can get this information for anyone who needs it. The Preston County Commission wants to receive this information.
- Armstrong reported the dye test results for Buffalo Creek #39 are expected in a few weeks
- Upper Deckers Creek #1 is having trespassers with boats and on 4 wheelers. The individuals have been identified and Hilary Bright will send out a letter to them.

Conservation Services Report

- CS Jones provided a written report detailing the closing out of FY24 and the application numbers for FY25. State allotted \$70,000 will all be used.
- The need for temporary fence as an AgEP program was discussed.
- Jones will look into ways it may be offered in the future
- **Price moved to approve Conservation Agreements for Junior Bolyard, Wade Harsh, Joe Statler, Anne Stroud, and Sharon Wotring. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**
- **HR Scott moved to approve the AgEP payments as presented. Price seconded. Motion carried.**
 - Lisa Capsey-Baker – UA - \$128.24
 - Brian Britton – Pollination - \$200
 - Troy Darrah – Fence - \$3,507.00
 - Lacen Forbes – Pollination - \$200
 - Jennifer Kahly -UA - \$285.01
 - Amanda McCleary – Lime/\$1,781.43 and WS/\$1,500
 - Shawn Sessa-WS - \$2,000
 - Charles Sutton – Lime – \$3,078.52

Solid Waste Authority

- **Cienawski moved to reappoint Hayward Helmick to the Monongalia Solid Waste Authority board. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**

Area Director Kokoska provided a written report and reminded the board of important upcoming dates.

Financial Statements

- **Price moved to approve the General Fund/CDO financial reports and file them for audit. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried.**
- **Cienawski moved to approve the Co-Administered Funds report and file it for audit. Price seconded. Motion carried.**

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- **Price moved to cancel the fax line being billed to the credit card. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**
- Scott will reach out to First United to discuss CD interest rates.

LOR

Teets moved to approve the following Letters of Request:

- 16133 – FY25 Q1 District Support Allotment \$33,082.00 7/1/24
- 16134 – FY25 Q2 District Support Allotment \$16,692.00 10/1/24
- 16135 – FY25 Q3 District Support Allotment \$16,691.00 1/1/25
- 16136 – FY25 Q4 District Support Allotment \$12,668.00 4/1/25

Price seconded. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

- The September board meeting will take place at the Preston County Inn. **Cienawski moved to change the meeting date to the second Thursday of the month (9/12/24). Teets seconded. Motion carried.**
- Sigrid Teets gave an update on the Upper Deckers rehab planning. The project was not funded. S. Teets encourage the supervisors to work with NRCS and discussed looking into alternatives to rehab during the planning phase. Chairman Myers asked S. Teets to explain IDIQ. Her explanation included details are how it was created, the 7 engineering firms that are part of it, and the way it streamlines the process for the district.
- Future dam rehabs and dam concerns were discussed.
- A new logo that gives the district a clearer identity was discussed. The board will continue to find the right design.
- HR discussed the building remodel. The current design was shown to the supervisors. If approved by Gene Saurborn and Judith Lyons, the remodel can move to the next stage.

New Business

- The board agreed to work on the Annual Plan later in the day.
- The need for a new attorney for the district was discussed. No action was taken at this time.
- **Teets moved to add all newly elected supervisors to the bank accounts after they are sworn in. Cienawski seconded. Motion carried. (Bob Spaid, Andrew Price, and Brandon Linton will need added).**
- **Cienawski moved that the district write a letter to senators and members of Congress urging them to support the reinstatement of M-44 use for coyote predator control. Scott seconded. Motion carried.** Hoalcraft will work with Cienawski to get the letter drafted.

Correspondence

- WVCA policies and procedures were made available to the supervisors.

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- Correspondence received from the previous month was shared including a thank you letter from the WVU Soils Team and thank you card from Nicole Lin of the Morgantown Envirothon team.

Funding Request

- Ravenswood FFA funding request was not approved due to lack of action from the board.

Administrative Specialist Report

- Hoalcraft provided a written report.

New Officer Elections

- The board reviewed the new officer nominations made by the nominating committee that consisted of associate supervisors Jean Conley, Art Mouser, and Jim McDonald. They nominated:
 - **Chair- Mark Teets**
 - **Vice Chair- Mark Myers**
 - **Secretary-Andy Price**
 - **Treasurer-HR Scott**
- No nominations were made from the floor and nominations were closed.
- **Cienawski moved to approve the new officers as submitted by the nominating committee to start on July 1, 2024. Scott seconded. Motion carried.**

Committee Appointments

- The new standing committees will be:

Finance

Chairman-Chuck Cienawski
Vice-Chairman-Andy Price
HR Scott

Upper Buffalo Creek Watershed

Chairman- Chuck Cienawski
Vice Chairman-Brandon Linton
Jean Conley
Tech Support-Gene Saurborn

Educational/Marketing/Soil

Chairman-Chuck Cienawski
Vice-Chairman-Andy Price
Bob Spaid
Brandon Linton

WVACD Directors

1. Mark Myers
2. Mark Teets

WVACD Alternates

1. Chuck Cienawski
2. Andy Price
3. Brandon Linton
4. Bob Spaid
5. HR Scott

Legislation

Chairman-Mark Myers
Vice-Chairman-Andy Price

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Grasslands

Chairman-Mark Myers
Vice-Chairman-Brandon Linton
Art Mouser

State AgEP Committee

HR Scott
State AgEP Committee Alternate
Chuck Cienawski

Safety/Building/Grounds/Equipment

Chairman-HR Scott
Vice-Chairman-Mark Myers
Jean Conley

Wes-Mon-Ty RC&D

1. Chuck Cienawski - Marion
2. Andrew Price – Monongalia
3. Bob Spaid - Preston

Ag Enhancement

Chairman- HR Scott
Vice-Chairman-Mark Teets
Bob Spaid
Tech Support-Kaitlyn Jones

Solid Waste Authority Boards

1. Ben Smith Jr - Marion
2. Hayward Helmick - Monongalia
3. Mark Teets - Preston

Upper Decker's Creek Watershed

Chairman-Mark Teets
Vice-Chairman-Bob Spaid
Art Mouser
Tech Support-Gene Saurborn

Farmland Protection Boards

Art Mouser - Preston

Committee Reports

- Upper Buffalo Creek Watershed
 - Getting in touch with the dam monitors was discussed. The board hopes to arrange a dinner with them in the fall. Hoalcraft will obtain the most up to date copy of the dam monitors list for the July meeting.
- Safety/Grounds/Equipment
 - Sealed bids for the No-Till Seeder were opened. Three bids were received. The bids offered were: \$4,180, \$1,750, and \$5,800. The board discussed the appraised value of the seeder.
 - **Cienawski moved to reject all bids received for the No-Till Seeder. Teets seconded. Motion carried.**
 - Reopening the bid with a reserve bid was discussed. Consigning the equipment was also discussed.

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There was no public comment.

Mouser moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:17PM.

Minutes approved by: Mark Teets
Mark Teets, Chairman

7/11/24
Date